

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 3475

FOR IOR: ILA; IPS; IBS

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UNCLAS. JULY 25. TOP CIRCULATION DIARIO DE HOY OVER WEEKEND CARRIED OFFICIAL REACTION TO FRIDAY'S CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS AND SEVERAL DEPARTMENT STATEMENTS AFFECTING EL SALVADOR.

THE ESCHEWED WIREACCOUNTS OF HEARINGS, RUNNING LOW ON PAGE FIVE A REPLY BY PRESIDENT CARLOS HUMBERTO ROMERO TO EX-AMBASSADOR IGNACIO E. LOZANO'S TESTIMONY. EXCERPTS FOLLOW.

SOURCES CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT, CONSULTED ABOUT THESE ACCUSATIONS, SAID THEY ARE COMPLETELY IRRESPONSIBLE AND APPEAR TO BE "THE FRUIT OF SOME PERSONAL GRUDGE ON THE PART OF EX-AMBASSADOR LOZANO." THEY ADDED THAT LOZANO'S POSITION IS AT ODDS WITH THAT OF SEVERAL EMBASSY OFFICIALS, WHO HAVE ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, AMONG FRIENDS, EXPRESSED THEIR TOTAL DISAGREEMENT.

ACCORDING TO SALVADORAN OFFICIAL SOURCES, LOZANO'S DECLARATIONS "ARE PART OF AN ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN WHICH CERTAIN ELEMENTS INTERESTED IN DISTORTING THE TRUTH ABOUT EL SALVADOR ARE CARRYING ON ABOARD".

SUNDAY'S EDITION RAN SERIES OF "NO COMMENT" STATEMENTS BY FOMIN MARTINEZ REGARDING RECENT STATEMENTS IN STATE PRESS BRIEFINGS. EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

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AT THE MOMENT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHO WILL BE THE PERSON DESIGNED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AS THE NEW AMBASSADOR TO OUR COUNTRY, SAID LIC. ALVARO ERNESTO MARTINEZ.

HE EXPLAINED THAT SO FAR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NOT REQUESTED FORMAL APPROVAL FOR WHOEVER MIGHT OCCUPY THE POST VACATED BY IGNACIO LOZANO, WHO RESIGNED A FEW MONTHS AGO.

THE MINISTER TERMED AS SPECULATIVE THE PRESS ACCOUNTS
IN THE
U.S. TO THE EFFECT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WAS NOT DISPOSED
TO NAME A NEW AMBASSADOR, BUT WOULD KEEP THE EMBASSY REPRESENTATION AT THE LEVEL OF A CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES UNTIL THE SALVADOREAN GOVERNMENT
GAVE SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION REGARDING THE
WHEREABOUTS OF BLACK U.S. CITIZEN PAUL ROBERT, WHO IS SAID TO
HAVE DISAPPEARED IN EL SALVADOR. ON THIS CASE, IMMIGRATION
AUTHORITIES ALREADY INFORMED THAT HE WAS EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY
FOR LACK OF DOCUMENTS.
WHAT IS MORE, THE MINISTRY HAS NO OFFICIAL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE
DESIGNATION OF MISS SALLY SHELTON AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS. MISS SHELTON WAS
MENTIONED A FEW MONTHS AGO AS THE NEW AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR.
WITH RESPECT TO THE U.S. REFUSAL TO SELL ARMS FOR THE USE OF
SALVADORAN POLICE, WHICH INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES HAVE
REPORTED, MARTINEZ SAID HE KNEW NO DETAILS.
JOHNSON

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